



Rural Maryland Council (RMC)
Fall Quarterly Executive Board Meeting Minutes
Date: September 24, 2021
Time: 12 pm – 2 pm
Location: Zoom Teleconference

Participants: Participants: Jamie Williams, Ed Knox, Kimberly Kratovil, Cassie Shirk, Jack Shaw, The Honorable Adelaide Eckardt, Sam Shoge, Santo Grande, Sara Seitz, Brigitte Peters, Kristen Lycett, Lucille Walker, Scott Warner, Mindie Burgoyne, Jinhee Kim, Debbie Bowden, Chris Kaselemis, Josh Hastings, Hugh Grunden, Steve Pennington, Steve McHenry, Elizabeth Chung, Heidi Anderson, La Fabian Marshall, Darren Jarboe, Matt Holloway, Don Mulrine, Julie Oberg, Leslie Hart, The Honorable George Edwards, Kellie Hinkle, Elizabeth Carven, Steve Umberger, Linda Castrilli, Lesley Quattlebaum, Matthew Teffeau, Melissa Kelly, George Kandathil, Kelly Shultz, Cindy Stone, Craig Hartsock, Beth Hill, Michaela Mentu, Susan Summers, The Honorable Sheree Sample-Hughes, Sandy Pruitt, Daniel Rider, Wendolyn McKenzie, Nancy LaJoice, Ryan Snow, Chris Benzing, Gregory Padgham, Alston Shipley, Ann Hillyer, Roseanna Vogt, The Honorable Katie Hester, Lisa Challenger, Leanne Mazer, Bari Klein, Renee Sheehy, Holly Porter, Kurt Fuchs, Gretchen Hardman, Brandon Engle, Susan Harrison, Carmella Watkins, Nan Mann, Noelle Flaherty, Grayson Middleton, John Hartline, Bill Valentine, Barbara Polito, Charlotte Davis, Megan D'Arcy, Dakota Matthews, Amanda Clevenger.

A. Welcome and Introductions: Chair John Hartline welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 12:02pm.

B. Approval of Minutes: RMC Executive Board Meeting, April 9, 2021: Chair John Hartline asked for approval of the 4/9/2021 meeting minutes. Dr. Heidi Anderson moved to accept the minutes. Ms. Debbie Bowden seconded it. Chair Hartline asked if there was any discussion or edits needed. There were none. The 4/9/2021 were unanimously approved.

C. Guest Speaker: Elizabeth Chung, Executive Director for the Asian American Center of Frederick introduced the guest speaker - Secretary Kelly Schulz, Maryland Department of Commerce. Secretary Schulz covered important topics that included financial incentive programs related to rural economic development, More Jobs for Marylanders Incentive Program, Tourism, Logistics and fulfillment. A question and answering period followed the presentation.

D. Board and Committee Reports

- 1) **Financial Report: FY2022 Budget Report.** RMC Executive Director Charlotte Davis reviewed the financial report that was included in the meeting materials. Ms. Davis thanked the Governor Hogan and the Legislature as the Council received \$6,000,000 for RMPPIF and \$118,485 for MAERDAF. Ms. Davis further reported that the Council has expended \$67,450 for RMC operations. Ms. Davis asked if there were any questions on the financial report. Chair Hartline asked for a motion to approve the FY2022 Budget Report. Dr. Heidi Anderson moved approval of the FY2022 budget report. Mr. Chris Benzing seconded it. Chair Hartline asked if there were any additional questions. Ms. Holly Porter asked if there was typo in the MAERDAF line item that made it \$5 Million instead of \$500,000. Ms. Davis reported that it was typo and thanked Ms. Porter for catching it. Dr. Heidi Anderson amended her motion to move the approval of the FY22 Budget Report with the correction. Chris Benzing seconded it. Chair Hartline asked if there was any discussion. There was none. The FY22 Budget Report was unanimously approved.

2) FY2023 Budget Report – Ms. Davis stated that this is the time of year when the state agencies are preparing their budgets for the FY2023 year. Ms. Davis asked the Board to approve a letter to the Governor with the Council’s requests for \$9 Million for due to the impact of the COVID pandemic, the current surge, and the overall delay of recovery in rural areas. In addition, Ms. Davis stated the council is requesting the contractual conversion of one pin. Chair John Hartline asked for a motion to approve the FY23 Budget and the Letter to the Governor. Dr. Heidi Anderson moved approval of the FY23 Budget Report and the Letter to the Governor. Mr. Chris Benzing seconded it. Chair Hartline asked if there was any discussion. Dr. Anderson and Sam Shoge had questions regarding the request. Chair Hartline informed members the intent to continue to aske for \$9 Million in the future. Chair Hartline asked if there was any further discussion. There was none. The FY23 Budget Report was unanimously approved.

3) Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund: Ms. Charlotte Davis reported that the Grant Review Board met in August and grant awards were announced that same month. Ms. Davis further stated that Staff are currently working on grant agreements and the goal is to get the grants funds disbursed by the end of the calendar year.

Underserved Communities Improvement Act of 2022: Ms. Davis stated that this was not recommended by the Executive Committee but for information only. Ms. Davis stated that the Council has to proactively ask for funds every year and the Act was an attempt to seek funding through a special fund. Chair Hartline asked if there were any comments. There were none.

4) Legislative Committee: Mr. Chris Benzing reported that the Committee has talked about strategies and priorities for the upcoming Legislative Session. Mr. Benzing welcomed everyone to participate in the biweekly Legislative Committee meetings that meet by teleconference once Session begins. Ms. Davis reported that in the material there is a draft letter for RMC representation in the Broadband Advisory Workgroup. Ms. Davis asked for a vote on the request. Mr. Steve McHenry moved the motion. Ms. Elizabeth Chung seconded it. Chair Hartline asked if there was any discussion. There was none. The motion to send the Broadband Advisory Workgroup letter to the Governor was unanimously approved.

5) Rural Maryland Foundation: Mr. Dan Rider stated that the Foundation will begin their Strategic Planning process with LaCharla Figgs in the coming weeks.

6) Agriculture Committee: Mr. Matt Tefteau reported that the Governor’s Intergovernmental Commission for Agriculture met June 30, 2021.

7) Joint Planning and Development Committee: Ms. Charlotte Davis stated that the Committee met earlier this month. Ms. Charlotte Davis reviewed the 2021 Rural Issues Survey Results and stated that the typical themes showed up but there were two that stood out and included affordable housing and mass transit. Ms. Davis stated that this Committee has been taxed with implementing the Strategic Plan and asked for any questions.

8) Nominating Committee: Mr. Chris Benzing reported that the next meeting will be on September 28, 2021 and they will be presenting a slate of officers and Board Members to the Executive Committee in November and the Annual Meeting in December. Ms. Davis stated they RMC will send out the Board survey following the meeting.

9) Executive Director’s Report: Ms. Charlotte Davis provided an update on the 2021 Rural Summit Planning; the Staff Activity Reports; the 25th Anniversary publication; the Tawes Crab and Clam bake; the economic analysis with RESI; and the RMC annual meeting.

- E. New Business:** Rural Impact Awards: Ms. Charlotte Davis stated that the Council is seeking nominations by November 5, 2021 for a Rural Volunteer, Rural Community Development, Rural Economic Development and a Rural Champion.
- F. Announcements:** Chair Hartline asked participants to share information on their RMC grant funds. The following organizations thanked RMC and shared information on their grant project: Carmella Watkins with Ivy & Pearls of Southern Maryland; LaFabian Marshall with Pocomoke City; Lesley Quattlebaum with the College of Southern Maryland; Santo Grande with the Delmarva Community Services; Dan Rider for the support of the Forestry Community; Beth Hill with the Maryland Forests Association. Kurt Fuchs with Farm Credit made a quick plug on the two scholarship opportunities and encouraged folks to apply at fcfoundationforag.org. Chair Hartline asked for comments from the legislators that participated on the call and that included Senator Addie Eckardt, Senator George Edwards, and Speaker Pro Tem Sheree Sample-Hughes.
- G. Adjourn:** Chair John Hartline thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and asked for the motion to adjourn at 1:47pm. Mr. Chris Benzing moved the motion and Mr. Steven McHenry seconded. The motion to adjourn the meeting was unanimously approved.

Next Meeting: RMC Annual Meeting, Wednesday, December 1, 2021
DoubleTree Hilton Hotel, Annapolis, Maryland 21401